



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 21, 2013

TO: Drivers Education Schools, Owners, and Instructors

FROM: Peter Moe, Division Manager, Driver Instructional Services

SUBJECT: Teen Safe Driving Week

Welcome to National Teen Driver Safety Week 2013. This week provides the Maryland driver education community a unique opportunity to concentrate on issues specific to new, teen drivers. To enhance the knowledge of this at-risk population, the MVA will be posting questions drawn from the knowledge test at mva.maryland.gov, on the MVA's Facebook page <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/Driver-Safety/young-driver-safety.htm> and on the MVA Twitter feed, https://twitter.com/MD_MVA. Parents, coaches, and new drivers will all have the opportunity to get the "right" answers to the posted questions whose impact reaches far beyond the knowledge test.

"Like" the MVA's Facebook page or "follow" the MVA twitter feed and you will receive new questions and answers, delivered daily. You can use these questions as part of your classes. You can also direct your students to the web page, the Facebook page, or the Twitter feed to answer the questions on their own. The questions will focus on safety issues that remain a concern for new drivers and their families such as:

- Seatbelt use
- Defensive driving & right-of-way
- Signs & lane markings
- Sharing the road

As parents play a critical role ensuring the safety of the new driver, we are also working to enhance the knowledge of parents and driving coaches. The release of new Parent Orientation, Unit One of the MVA approved curriculum, will provide everyone in the industry a fresh opportunity to educate parents and new drivers on the graduated licensing system and the law changes that impact this group. It will also give parents helpful tips about coaching

their teen drivers. Research from such diverse groups as AAA Safety Foundation, NHTSA, and the Center for Disease Control all document the importance of parental involvement and their role in developing safe teen drivers.

The State of Maryland and all of its citizens have made great progress towards creating safer roads for young drivers and the public at large. But we still have more progress to make. We must ensure new drivers know the answers to these important questions and incorporate the “right” answers into their daily driving. We need to work with parents and let them know how important they are to the driver education process. Educating new drivers and their parents to be safer and more knowledgeable will help continue to make Maryland roads safer for all of us.

Thank you for all of the excellent work you do on a daily basis to help keep teen drivers safe now and to prepare them for a lifetime of safe driving.